



NEWS RELEASE

Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>

Release No.: 06112003-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

GROUNDBREAKING FOR UNIQUE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD Families Are Building Their Own Homes

LAKE CHARLES, June 11, 2003 – Ground was broken today at the site of a new concept in neighborhoods—self-help housing. Through the USDA Rural Development Self-Help Housing Program, four families are working together to build their own homes.

“Homeownership strengthens our rural communities and adds to the overall quality of life,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director, USDA Rural Development. “Rural Development’s Self-Help Housing Program empowers families to invest a little ‘sweat equity’ and gain a substantial investment in a new home.”

Through the Self-Help Housing Program, USDA Rural Development awarded a \$240,000 technical assistance grant to Seventh District Pavilion, Inc., to recruit and assist twenty families build their own homes throughout Calcasieu, Evangeline, and St. Landry Parishes. Rural Development will also provide new home financing for each homeowner. Today’s event marks the start of construction of the first four homes in Calcasieu Parish.

“These families are very excited about beginning construction,” said Dazetta Thorne of Seventh District Pavilion, Inc. “Our organization recruited these families for this program, and we will work with them throughout the construction and financing stages.”

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices, located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

#